

Department of Corporate Resources

Members of Council

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Date: 28 February 2024

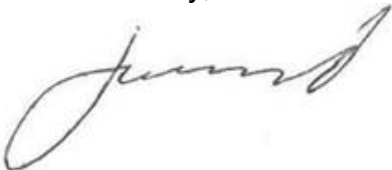
Dear Councillor,

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – THURSDAY, 7 MARCH 2024

You are requested to attend the meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber - City Hall, Bradford, on Thursday, 7 March 2024 at 4.00 pm

The agenda for the meeting is set out overleaf.

Yours sincerely,



Jason Field
Interim Director of Legal and Governance

Notes:

- A webcast of the meeting will be available to view live on the Council's website at <https://bradford.public-i.tv/core/portal/home> and later as a recording.
- The taking of photographs, filming and sound recording of the meeting is allowed except if Councillors vote to exclude the public to discuss confidential matters covered by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Recording activity should be respectful to the conduct of the meeting and behaviour that disrupts the meeting (such as oral commentary) will not be permitted.
- **Anyone attending the meeting who wishes to record or film the meeting's proceedings is advised to liaise with the Agenda Contact who will provide guidance and ensure that any necessary arrangements are in place. Those present at the meeting should be aware that they may be filmed or sound recorded.**
- **Members of the public are respectfully reminded that this is a meeting that is being held in public NOT a public meeting. The attendance of the public to observe the proceedings is welcome.**
- The Fire Bell and Evacuation Procedure requires people to leave the building in an orderly fashion by the nearest exit, should the fire alarm sound. No one will be allowed to stay or return until the building has been checked.

Members are reminded that under the Members' Code of Conduct, they must register within 28 days any changes to their financial and other interests and notify the Monitoring Officer of any gift or hospitality received.

AGENDA

A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

(Members Code of Conduct – Part 4A of the Constitution)

To receive disclosures of interests from members and co-opted members on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

Notes:

- (1) *Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:*

Type of Interest

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

You must:

Disclose the interest; not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the

meeting unless you have a dispensation.

Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related)

OR

Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)

Disclose the interest; speak on the item only if the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.

Other Registrable Interests (Affects)

OR

Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)

Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote unless the matter affects the financial interest or well-being

(a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward, and (b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest; in which case speak on the item only if the public are also allowed to speak but otherwise do not participate in the discussion or vote; and leave the meeting unless you have a dispensation.

- (2) Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.*
- (3) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.*
- (4) Officers must disclose interests in accordance with Council Standing Order 44.*

In addition, to receive and consider a report from the Council's Monitoring Officer, which requests the Council to grant a dispensation to all Members who have certain Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, as defined in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, in the decision to approve the budget and to set the level of Council Tax and Business Rates for 2024/25 during the Budget Council meeting on 7 March 2024.

Recommended:

That Council:

- 1) Grants a dispensation to the Members of the Authority who have requested one, to enable them to participate in full in the decision to approve the budgets for 2024/25 and to set the Council Tax and Business Rates for 2024/25.**
- 2) Approves the dispensation for a period of 1 year until 7 March 2025.**
- 3) Notes the Monitoring Officer's advice that personal interests that may give rise to a perception of a conflict of interest shall not prevent Members from speaking and voting at the Budget meetings.**

2. MINUTES

Recommended –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2024 be signed as a correct record.

(Fatima Butt – 07970 411746)

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

(Fatima Butt – 07970 411746)

**4. WRITTEN ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE LORD MAYOR
(Standing Order 4)**

(To be circulated before the meeting).

5. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

(Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 3B of the Constitution)

Reports and background papers for agenda items may be inspected by contacting the person shown after each agenda item. Certain reports and background papers may be restricted.

Any request to remove the restriction on a report or background paper should be made to the relevant Strategic Director or Assistant Director whose name is shown on the front page of the report.

If that request is refused, there is a right of appeal to this meeting.

Please contact the officer shown below in advance of the meeting if you wish to appeal.

(Fatima Butt – 07970 411746)

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

6. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND JOINT COMMITTEES (Standing Order 4)

To consider any further motions (i) to appoint members to a Committee or a Joint Committee; or (ii) to appoint Chairs or Deputy Chairs of Committees (excluding Area Committees).

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES (Standing Order 15)

To consider any recommendations arising from meetings of the Executive and Committees.

(Fatima Butt – 07970 411746))

8. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE - BUDGET 2024/25 27 - 286

The Executive at its meeting on 5 March 2024 will make recommendations to Council on the Budget for 2024/25.

The following reports are submitted:

(i) THE COUNCIL'S REVENUE ESTIMATES FOR 2024-25 (GENERAL FUND AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT)

The report of the Director of Finance (**Executive Document "AL"**) provides details of the Council's Revenue Estimates for 2024/25. The report also outlines feedback received through the consultation undertaken on the budget proposals that Executive approved for consultation at their meeting on 11 January 2024.

(Andrew Cross – 01274 436823)

(ii) ALLOCATION OF THE SCHOOL'S BUDGET 2024-25 FINANCIAL YEAR

The report of the Director of Finance (**Executive Document "AM"**) seeks approval of the recommendations of Bradford's Schools Forum in allocating the Dedicated Schools Grant for 2024/25.

(Andrew Redding – 01274 432678)

(iii) **CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN 2024-25 TO 2027-28**

The report of the Director of Finance (**Executive Document “AN”**) presents the Council’s Capital Investment Plan for 2024-25 to 2027-28, an updated Capital Strategy and the Investment Strategy for 2024-25.

(Lynsey Simenton – 07582 102779)

(iv) **2024-25 BUDGET PROPOSALS, FORECAST RESERVES, RISKS, OVERALL FINANCIAL POSITION AND EMERGING FINANCIAL STRATEGY – SECTION 151 OFFICER ASSESSMENT UNDER S25 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2003**

The report of the Director of Finance (**Executive Document “AP”**) assesses the adequacy of forecast levels of reserves, the risks associated with the budget, the overall financial position of the Council, the developing financial strategy and actions needed and being taken to secure the Council’s long term financial stability and the robustness of the proposed budget for 2024/25.

(Steven Mair – 07786 525809)

Note: The above reports may also need to be updated following the meeting of Executive on Tuesday 5 March 2024. In view of the short timescale between the Executive meeting on Tuesday, 5 March 2024 and the meeting of Council on Thursday, 7 March 2024, the budget recommendations from the Executive to Council will be e-mailed to all Members of Council following the Executive meeting on 5 March 2024 and will be published on the Council’s website. The recommendations will also be circulated at the Council meeting.

9. **COUNCIL TAX PREMIUMS ON LONG TERM EMPTY PROPERTIES AND SECOND HOMES** 287 - 300

The report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources (**Executive Document “AO”**) makes recommendations for changes to Council Tax premiums for long term empty homes and second homes, to incentivise occupation of property in the district and increase the housing stock.

Recommended -

- (1) **That option 2 be the preferred option. That the Council introduce increased Council Tax Premium Charges as enabled by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023. This would:**
 - **Reduce the minimum period for the implementation of a 100% Council Tax premium for empty and unfurnished properties from 2 years to 1 year from April 2024 and**
 - **Introduce a Council Tax premium of 100% in respect of second homes (properties that are empty and furnished) from April 2025.**

- (2) **That following a consultation on proposed exemptions, the Government is yet to publish the final list of exceptions. That responsibility be delegated to the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources to implement the exceptions once finalised.**

(Caroline Lee – 07811 088655)

Note: The above report may also need to be updated following the meeting of Executive on Tuesday 5 March 2024. In view of the short timescale between the Executive meeting on Tuesday, 5 March 2024 and the meeting of Council on Thursday, 7 March 2024, the recommendations from the Executive to Council will be e-mailed to all Members of Council following the Executive meeting on 5 March 2024 and will be published on the Council's website. The recommendations will also be circulated at the Council meeting.

10. PAY POLICY STATEMENT FOR 2024/25

To receive and consider a report from the Director of Human Resources, which provides details of the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2024/25.

Recommended –

That the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2024/25 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

(Richard Corbett – 07816 358924)